Avon Grove Church OF THE NAZARENE

"Living out the mission of Jesus – together."

Sermon Discussion Guide
11/01/2026

Sermon: *"Be Strong and work. … For I am with you"*
Text: *Haggai 2:1-9*

🌿 **Introduction:** God is still at work, His mission is still important, and there is a place for every one of us in what He is doing.

1. What Gets Our Attention?

We live in a world with plenty of things competing for our time, energy, and attention.

What are some of the things that tend to consume our attention and make it difficult to remain intentional about our relationship with God?

2. Looking Back: When Yesterday Gets in the Way

In Haggai 2, some of the people became discouraged because what they were rebuilding didn't compare with what they remembered.

Have you ever found yourself comparing your current spiritual life with an earlier season when you felt closer to God, more engaged, or more excited about following Him?

What can we learn from those seasons without becoming stuck wishing things were like they used to be?

How can we recognize when remembering the past is helping us versus when it's keeping us from embracing what God wants to do in our lives today?

3. Looking Up: Depending on God's Presence

God told His people, "Be strong…and work. For I am with you" (Haggai 2:4).

Sometimes we become discouraged because we're trying to manage too much, figure everything out, or accomplish things in our own strength.

What would it look like in your current season of life to depend more fully on God's presence rather than simply trying harder?

Personal reflection: Is there a particular burden, uncertainty, or situation where you need to trust God and take the next faithful step rather than waiting for everything to be resolved?

4. Looking Ahead: Recognizing What Really Matters

We talked about how the significance of God's work isn't always measured by what looks impressive on the outside. Often, it is seen in lives being changed and people growing in Christ.

When you think about your family, friendships, workplace, or neighborhood, where might God be giving you an opportunity to make a spiritual difference in someone's life?

Personal Response: Is there someone God may be inviting you to encourage, pray for, serve, or intentionally invest in? What might that look like in an ordinary week?

5. Your Next Faithful Step

The challenge isn't to become busier. It's to become more faithful, spiritually alive, and intentional about participating in the mission of Jesus.

What is one area of your relationship with God or your participation in His mission that you sense needs renewed attention?

What is one practical step you could take this week in response?

🛡️ **Close in prayer:**

"May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Romans 15:5-6